This Tortoise is found in the southern States of America, in the whole of tropical America, and in the larger West India islands. It appears that it is not found north of the river Savannah. It is carried to market and sold as food in Florida and Georgia. Those which I have kept have fed on grass, and on dandelions and lettuces, and drank freely. The account which Bartram gives of the habitations of these tortoises, in his Travels in the southern parts of North America, is exceedingly curious, though, like most of his wonderful stories, it is tinctured by an amusing credulity which has rendered him easily imposed upon. "The dens or caverns dug in the sand hills by the great land tortoise, called here Gopher, present a very singular appearance. These vast caves are their castles and diurnal retreats, *from whence they issue forth in the night in search of prey.* The little hillocks of fresh earth, thrown up in great numbers in the night, have also a curious appearance." At another part of his journal he says, "Observed, as we passed over the sand hills, the dens of the great land tortoise, called Gopher. The first signs of this animal's existence as we travel southerly, are immediately after we cross the Savannah river. It is to be seen only on the high dry sand hills, in which they form great and deep dens, casting out incredible quantities of earth; they are esteemed excellent food." It is unnecessary to say that the little flourish of the worthy traveller, about their issuing from their castles in the night time in search of prey, is a simple fiction; for not only are all the land tortoises vegetable feeders, but strictly diurnal animals.

The young animal differs from the older in the brighter colour, the more distinct sculpture, and the rounded oval form of the shell. The eggs are of a spherical shape, very slightly flattened, and about two inches in diameter. The egg shell is thick, and of a friable texture.